

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /052 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TT/AN:JMAGNOR:EM

APPROVED BY EB/TT/AN: WBCOBB

CAB - ALARGAY (INFO)

EUR/NE - NACHILLES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CHARTER TALKS WITH BELGIUM

REF : (A) BRUSSELS 9515 (B) STATE 251360

(C) BRUSSELS 9464

1. VANDERPERREN REFERENCES TO ECAC PRESSURES REPORTED

REF (A) AND THE CONDITIONS HE SUGGESTS MUST THEREFORE BE PRECEDENT TO A DEAL (VIZ. A QUID PRO QUO FOR SABENA AND A FORMAL AGREEMENT LESS THAN PRESENT AGREEMENT) GIVE RISE TO PROBLEMS BOTH WITH RESPECT TO POLICY AND NEGOTIATING STRATEGY FOR THE REMAINING BILATERAL TALKS. THESE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE OBVIOUS AND WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE ELABORATE ANALYSIS HERE FALL ESSENTIALLY INTO TWO CATEGORIES.

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A. THE QUID PRO QUO -- OF THE THREE POSSIBLE QUIDS FOR

THE CHARTER QUO, TWO ARE RELATED TO SCHEDULED SERVICES, AND ONLY ONE IS RELATED TO CHARTERS. AS REF (B) INDICATES, A CHARTER QUO ON BASIS OF PART CHARTER AUTHORITY FOR SABENA IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE MOMENT AND PRESENT POLICY PRECLUDES CONCLUDING A DEAL ON THE BASIS OF A SCHEDULE SERVICE CONCESSION.

B. INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING - MUCH OF THE EFFECT OF A SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED U.S.-BELGIUM EXTENDED AND AMENDED CHARTER MOU ON THE OUTCOME OF THE OTHER BILATERAL TALKS WILL BE LOST. U.S. DEL IS OF COURSE IN BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS SITUATION, BUT WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT SWISS WILL BE MORE WILLING TO PROVIDE "SAFE HAVEN" THAN BELGIANS (ESPECIALLY IF THE SWISS DISCOVER AS THEY UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BEFORE WEEKEND IS OVER THAT USDEL HAS LEFT BRUSSELS EMPTY HANDED). MOREOVER, ANY AGREEMENT WITH BELGIUM LESS THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW COULD CONCEIVABLY BE INTERPRETED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS AS SIGN THAT ECAC HAS ARRIVED AND THEY NEED NOT ACCOMMODATE U.S.

2. IN VIEW OF CAB AND INDUSTRY POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO CHARTER UNDERSTANDINGS IN GENERAL AND CHARTER UNDERSTANDING WITH BELGIAN IN PARTICULAR AS SEEN AGAINST BACKGROUND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT APPEARS THAT ANY AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES SAFE HAVEN AND WHICH IS SUFFICIENTLY REFLECTIVE IN FORMAL VERSION OF U.S. CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO NEW U.S. CHARTER TYPES WILL BE SATISFACTORY. USDEL SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE TO SEEK AGREEMENT INCLUDING THESE ELEMENTS AS MINIMUM AND TO MAKE REASONABLE CHARTER CONCESSIONS TO ACHIEVE SUCH AGREEMENT.

3. NON-CHARTER SUBJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH BRITISH DURING COURSE OF NOVEMBER 5-7 TALKS IN LONDON. IT IS LIKELY BELGIANS WILL WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF USDEL'S PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS TO CONSIDER OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES SUCH AS SABENA'S INFORMAL REQUEST FOR A NEW YORK-MEXICO BLIND SECTOR. DEPT BELIEVES SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE PURSUED SINCE THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFER POSSIBILITY OF RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING U.S. CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY NORTH ATLANTIC CAPACITY. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE252698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMAGNOR:EM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750369-0227
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751027/aaaaaxui.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRUSSELS 9515, 75 STATE 251360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - CHARTER TALKS WITH BELGIUM
TAGS: EAIR, BE, US
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006